



CITY OF BRUNSWICK

1 W. Potomac Street • Brunswick, Maryland 21716 • (301) 834-7500

MAYOR AND COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008, 7:00 P.M.

Business Personal Property Tax—Dave Dunn

Gives brief background and overview of proposed changes (Staff Report attached.)

Smith—Believes Council should not go further with this at this time. With current sales tax increase and amount of foreclosures currently pending, doesn't believe implementing a new tax on businesses is a good idea this time. Would suggest revisiting this issue at a later time...possibly next year.

Points out approximately \$1000 in legal fees has been spent already exploring and drafting this program. That will not be recouped whether this moves forward or not. Remaining expenses will be for advertising for consecutive Public Hearings.

Charlie Smith—Brunswick business owner—Brentland Road, Knoxville—Feels downtown Brunswick is finally getting back to what it was like in the 1950's. Feels the small business owners encouraging the thriving downtown area cannot afford these taxes.

Stan Larnard—301 West Potomac Street—Opposed to new tax. Believes new tax would drive business owners out of Brunswick. Believes businesses would mark up prices if tax is implicated, thus making Brunswick residents recoup taxes.

Karen Tome—206 4th Avenue—Doesn't believe enough information has been given to make decisions of this tax. Does feel the citizens would be affected by this tax.

Ellis Burruss—310 Souder Road—First opposed to this tax as a business owner, but under some conditions, would consider supporting.

Leroy Strausburg, Brunswick Hardware—302 West Potomac Street—Opposed to tax. Believes if some businesses are taxed, all businesses should be taxed, even home based businesses.

Bill Hopwood—604 West Potomac Street—Opposed to tax.

Waste to Energy Facility Support—Dave Dunn

Gives background of project. Staff report attached. For several years, Frederick County has been exploring this option of handling waste disposal. Solid Waste Advisory Committee has been assigned to advise Board of Commissioners on this issue. That committee in support of this

issue. Council asked to pass resolution in support of Board of County Commissioners exploring Waste to Energy further. Other Frederick County municipalities are considering resolutions in support of this issue.

Karen Tome–206 4th Avenue–Believes County has a long way to go towards recycling. Against Waste to Energy Plant. Believes plants do not pay for themselves, don't produce savings in energy as claimed.

Ellis Burrus–Souder Road–Has visited Dickerson and Alexandria plants previously. Facilities were clean and odorless. Has been opposed to having plant in Frederick County, but believes it is a viable solution, since no land is available for landfills.

Annexation Request and Resolution for the Cooper Property, Bpc File Number BR-ANNEX-07-01–Jack Whitmore
Gives background of project. Staff report attached. No recommendation on this issue, however staff does need direction on how to proceed.

Smith–Has some questions about this annexation, at what forum will Council be able to ask those questions?

Mayor–Council needs to advise staff to hold workshop, where Council can ask questions.

Rick Stup–Questions for the applicant can be addressed when applicants make their presentation to Council. Since no annexation agreement existed, City Attorney drafted resolution before you. Staff still awaits direction on how to proceed from Council.

Rick Grove–1434 Souder Road–Questions what is PUD overlay option after ten years? Owns property next to property to be annexed and doesn't wish his property to be included. Questions the improvements to Souder Road.

Karen Tome–206 4th Avenue–Believes this spot makes sense to annex into the City, but not at this time. If building won't happen for ten years, this property is fine to annex. Very interested in seeing annexation agreement when one is available.

Mr. Offutt, Attorney for Cooper family–Gives background of Cooper family and proposed project.

Donovan Quarell–Engineering firm for Cooper family. Taxes will be imposed on this property when the development process begins. Improvements to the property shall be at no expense to the City. For improvements to the areas around the annexed area, the Coopers are putting a hold on this property for ten years, so creating plans at this time are just a vision for the property.

Kim Cable–807 4th Avenue–Believes this is a logical property to annex into City, but timing is

wrong. Questions Coopers' intentions regarding developing.

Donovan Quarell—Coopers are following standard procedures for this process.

Gary Cooper, Rosemont—Resents comments made by Kim Cable. Has no intentions of doing anything detrimental to Brunswick.

Thomas Connor—1404 Souder Road—Questions whether his property will be part of this annexation?

Charter Boundary Amendment Request for the Cooper Property Annexation, Bpc File Number BR-CHARTER-07-01-TA—Jack Whitmore
Gives background and information.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008, 9:15 P.M.**

Call to Order

Pledge

Roll Call—Johnson, Biser, Allgaier, Stull, Bruchey, Smith—all present

Mayor's Remarks—

Mayor swears in Officer Stephen Scalf, Jr.

Officer Scalf takes oath.

Approval of Minutes—suspended due to time

1. Closed—December 6 & 20, 2007
2. Finance—December 6, 2007
3. Mayor and Council—December 11, 2007
4. Workshop—December 20, 2007

Staff Reports/Committee Reports—suspended due to time

Citizens' Forum

None

Consent Agenda

None

Old Business

Charitable Donation Request–Brunswick Middle School–Applicant withdrew request before meeting.

New Business

Business Personal Property Tax

Motion to object–Smith

2nd for discussion–Stull

Allgaier–In favor of approving Charter Amendment at this time, but postponing tax.

Biser–Hopes that all tax money received by the City gains a “return on investment.” In favor of discussing this issue. Does believe this is the wrong time to implement a new tax.

Smith–If we reject Charter Amendment now, it can still be approved at a later time. The legal fees have already been spent and won’t need to be spent again.

Smith–Amends motion to move ahead and make Charter Amendment, but postpone tax

2nd–Stull

Vote 6-0

Traffic Control Request–Handicap Sign–517 East Potomac Street–DaveDunn

Appropriate paperwork has been obtained. Fliers circulated in neighborhood. Applicant has met all requirements. Applicant not present.

Motion to approve–Smith

2nd–Bruchey

Vote 6-0

Traffic Control Request/Driveway Entrance Permit–108 Central Avenue–Jim Castle

Give background info. Staff report attached. Driveway Entrance Permit is acceptable to staff.

Council does not have to visit administrative decision regarding driveway entrance. Staff feels driveway apron meets design specification and wouldn’t need additional street spaces to accommodate for driveway entrance. Staff recommends denial of Traffic Control Request.

Biser–Asks applicant why a second driveway is needed.

Jane Shafer, Applicant–108 Central Avenue–Second driveway is needed because basement leaks and contractor can alleviate that problem with a driveway. Cars park in front of house and in front of basement door, applicants can’t access basement. Additional parking is needed.

Joe Sowers–120 Central Avenue–Speaks in support of driveway.

Brown Eagle–617 Brunswick Street–Believes this driveway is larger than a single car driveway. Agrees that most residents in the area don't park in front of their own houses.

Bill Beck–114 Central Avenue–Carport is designed for two cars. However, people do park at corner, so applicants cannot get into their driveway.

Sandy Miller–702 Brunswick Street–Lives on the side of Brunswick Street that doesn't permit parking. Parks on Central Avenue even though she doesn't park there.

Luther Sowers–Contractor for applicants. Says Ms. Miller is causing problems for this construction.

Motion to deny Traffic Control Request–Biser
2nd–Johnson
Vote 6-0

Driveway Entrance will move forward, unless Council directs Staff otherwise, since residents and neighbors have appealed driveway entrance. Attorney has stated that if residents come to a public meeting and speak against the driveway, it can be viewed as an appeal.

Bruchey–Motion to table and not allow Staff to proceed
2nd–Smith
Motion 6-0

Brunswick Self Storage Storm Water Management Acceptance and Guarantee Reduction–Jim Castle
Gives background of project and overview. Staff recommends approval.

Motion to approve–Biser
2nd–Allgaier

Resolution No. 08-01–Waste to Energy Facility Support

Motion to endorse–Smith
2nd–Bruchey
Vote 6-0

Approved By: Bevell & Town 2/19/08 Witnessed By: David D. Dunn 2/19/08
Mayor Date City Administrator Date